

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9916
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00809

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA IN SC: HEARINGS

1. GABON AMB N'DONG TOLD US MARCH 7 AF GROUP HAS AGREED NOT TO OBJECT TO HEARING MUZOREWA IN SC DURING RHODESIA DEBATE PROVIDED HE IS HEARD AS INDIVIDUAL OR REPRESENTATIVE OF ANCZ. APPARENTLY GABON, MAURITIUS AND NIGERIA ALL ARGUED WITHIN GROUP THAT ALL MAJOR BLACK RHODESIAN FIGURES WHO WISH TO DO SO SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS SC IN CURRENT MEETINGS (BUT WITH PROVISIO NOTED ABOVE). THESE THREE SC MEMBERS HAVE ALSO SPONSORED REQUESTS FOR PARTICIPATION FOR NKOMO AND MUGABE WHICH WERE APPROVED BY SC 7 MARCH.

2. SC AGREEMENT TO HEAR NKOMO AND MUGABE PRECLUDES CONSENSUS ACTION ON ALL NATIONALISTS JOINTLY, WHICH WAS BRITISH PREFERENCE. BRITISH STILL INTEND TO WORK FOR AGREEMENT OF SC MEMBERS IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE SESSION TO HEAR MUZOREWA (AND SITHOLE, IF REQUEST RECEIVED FROM HIM). IN THAT CASE UK AMB RICHARD, AS SC PRESIDENT, WOULD REFER TO AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFORT AT BEGINNING OF NEXT PUBLIC SC MEETING. BRITISH FALLBACK IN EVENT CONSENSUS CANNOT BE OBTAINED IN CONSULTATIONS IS THAT UK
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AND US JOINTLY SHOULD TABLE IN THE SC THE USUAL BRIEF WRITTEN REQUEST PROPOSING THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD GRANT HEARINGS TO MUZOREWA AND, IF HE ASKS, SITHOLE. BASIS IN EITHER CASE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SC RULE 39.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AS TO PARTICIPATION WITH BRITISH IN REQUEST FOR HEARINGS IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY.

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